



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 24 YEARS IN PRISON FOLLOWING JURY CONVICTION FOR CRACK, ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and illegally possession of an AK-47-style assault rifle.

Deandre J. Scroggins, 25, of Kansas City, was sentenced to 24 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 3, 2004, a federal jury found **Scroggins** guilty of both counts of a June 25, 2002, federal indictment. The federal jury found him guilty of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine between May 28 and June 5, 2002, and illegally possessing a firearm on June 4, 2002.

Evidence presented during the trial, Graves said, indicated that **Scroggins** had been engaged in multi-kilo cocaine trafficking since late 1999. One witness testified that, during 2000 and 2001, he purchased 15 kilos of powder cocaine from **Scroggins** for \$20,000 to \$22,000 per kilogram. Additional evidence indicated that **Scroggins** used a hot plate to cook powder cocaine into crack cocaine and illegally possessed several firearms. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to possess a firearm in the commission of a drug trafficking offense.

On June 4, 2002, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at **Scroggins'** residence. Officers found a loaded Glock .357-caliber handgun on an end table outside **Scroggins'** basement bedroom, a loaded Glock .40-caliber handgun under a mattress in **Scroggins'** bedroom, and a loaded AK-47-style assault rifle, with a round in the chamber, near the basement bathroom. They also found a suitcase in the bedroom, containing a two-burner hot plate and metal pot with apparent cocaine residue, consistent with crack cocaine production. In the bedroom closet, officers found \$3,270 hidden above the heating and air conditioning vents and \$1,130 scattered about in a yellow plastic trash bag full of tennis shoes. In an upstairs

bedroom, officers found 62 grams of crack cocaine.

Officers also recovered a loaded assault rifle and a plastic wrapper with cocaine residue in a vehicle registered to **Scroggins**, which was parked in the driveway. They also found a Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun and two loaded magazines for a .40-caliber and a .357-caliber Glock inside a rental car leased by an associate of **Scroggins**, also parked in the driveway.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow